

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 346
By Stulce

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Big Ridge Elementary School PTA upon their receipt of the National PTA's 1996-97 Advocates for Children Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unreservedly of themselves to nurture and develop this state's most precious natural resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, the Big Ridge Elementary School Parent Teacher Association has recently been honored with the National PTA's 1996-97 Advocates for Children Award for the Southeast region in recognition of the group's stalwart commitment to the objectives of the PTA and to encouraging and strengthening parent involvement and advocacy for all children; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the results of a survey sent to parents, the Big Ridge PTA set eleven separate goals to strengthen parental involvement and advocacy for children; and

WHEREAS, these worthy goals included providing homework strategies for children; providing scholarships for students, teachers and PTA parent volunteers; increasing and promoting physical fitness for children by funding P.E. teacher and playground improvements; promoting the importance and beauty of the theater, music and visual arts; preparing children to deal with the technology fundamentals of the 21st Century; and supporting the ongoing maintenance and continued development of the school's science lab; and

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WHEREAS, during the 1996-97 school year, the Big Ridge PTA hosted two breakfast meetings, a Thanksgiving luncheon and two Open Houses for parents, all of which were highly informative and well attended; and

WHEREAS, the Big Ridge PTA also hosted a Newcomer's Coffee, which helped to give new members of the community a sense of belonging; as part of the program, a guidance counselor gave parents helpful information on ways to help their children adjust to a new school; and

WHEREAS, the Big Ridge PTA's Education Forum with Dr. Register, the new Hamilton County School Superintendent, helped to ease some of the anxieties parents are experiencing as a result of the merger of city and county schools; and

WHEREAS, the Founders' Day program imparted a greater understanding of PTA's past and helped to renew this exemplary group's already strong commitment to children; and

WHEREAS, the Big Ridge PTA presented the valuable Critical Television Viewing, Nutrition for Our Children and Stop the Sale-Prevent the Addiction programs for the edification of parents; and

WHEREAS, the Big Ridge PTA also adopted a monthly service project during the 1996-97 school year to teach their children how to give generously of themselves to help their community; these meritorious projects included Can Day '96 to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center, a children's book drive for the Northside Neighborhood House, "Pennies for AIDS," and many other worthwhile projects; and

WHEREAS, this lengthy list of projects, programs, events and forums provides ample documentation of the Big Ridge PTA's commitment to excellence and the reasons why they were selected to receive this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Big Ridge Elementary School's principal, Mary R. Uchtyl and assistant principal, Ronald Moss, played an instrumental role in making the school's PTA one of the most dedicated and productive child advocacy groups in the nation; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Big Ridge Elementary School will attend the 1997 National PTA Convention in Kansas City to present their award-winning program in a workshop and to participate in the Advocates Event; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the Big Ridge Elementary School PTA upon their highly deserved receipt of the National PTA's 1996-97 Advocates for Children Award and commend this exemplary organization's ongoing commitment to strengthening the bonds between the home and the school for the benefit of our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.